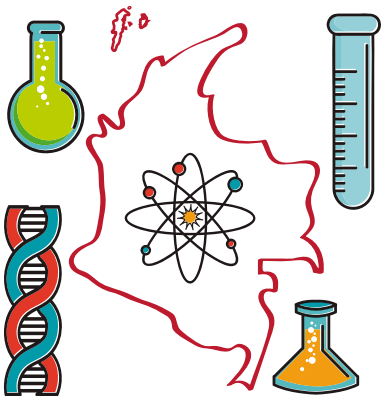


The Dictatorship of Capital



Neither guarantees nor democracy will ever be a reality if those who dare to raise their voices against injustice are silenced with state bullets or police garrote. The vicious circle always happens when government offices are taken by the rich and by the children of the rich.

All the public offices in Colombia work like that. For example, there is the case of the Ministry of Science. This office, in 2021, received from the State

413.000 million of pesos COP and, in 2022, 330.000 million, which were mainly spent on:

- Providing private companies and laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment, with the excuse that they are part of the Country's Science and Technology System (SCNTI).

- Pay for Master's degrees, doctorates, and post-doctorates, up to two or three times per person, abroad,

exclusively for people linked to those companies or offices. -who already earn enough money to pay for their specializations (Minciencias, Colciencias, Invima, Colfuturo, Universities, Ministries, etc.)- and people who work in private companies. Then, when important jobs come up, they list those specialties and courses as requirements to access them.

None of this money was used to train, educate, and qualify

unemployed science professionals or those working in smaller companies or to support entrepreneurs in favor of science.

Why does the government give money, resources, and means of production to consolidated companies with enormous capital in banks and foreign accounts, just with the excuse that they create a few jobs, and worse, poorly paid jobs, with long hours?

Why do public money and opportunities belong to those who have the resources to pay for them?

Why not support emerging professionals and entrepreneurs?

Why do we give doctorates and post-doctorates to a minority and refuse access to master's degrees and doctorates to the bulk of the population?

other government assistance such as housing subsidies, IVA tax refunds, export tax rebates, or tax exemptions for certain projects. This is the way they perpetuate their oligarchy.

In my case, I was the top high school student in my graduating class and obtained The Andrés Bello distinction and I was admitted four times to the National University in Colombia. On all those occasions I had to choose whether to work for food or to keep on

studying. Believe me, no one can think or design with an empty stomach. Nowadays I am a chemist, but I sell things on the streets, just as many Colombian professionals are working as waiters, janitors, and babysitters in the United States.

These are some types of institutional discrimination:

1. Economical: If you cannot afford a requirement, you cannot access it, for example, the fact that you do not have an IELTS test to qualify for a scholarship or if you cannot pay the tuition or the accommodation in another country, while the state funds are being released.

2. social: a simple requirement such as a sponsor with a large capital, or family members with income above a certain level, can be the excuse to deny access.

3. ideological: Let's direct aid and subsidies to a specific group who think the same way or share the same ideals (members of a specific University, participants of certain investigation groups, workers of companies, or civil servants with a specific range of requirements).

4. Educational: let's have a test or set specific requirements to eliminate, at entry, specific groups, or to enable us to decide who we allow access to the programs.

5. By history: If you have committed a mistake in your life, that is an excuse to restrict it, since only they have the right to amend or rectify.

6. By Power: if you do not accept being abused at work or that they impose long hours, or that your boss makes advances on you, you will be fired and your career will not progress.